

# Help Keep RCO on the Good List and You Too

## ***Salmon Project Cash Advances are a Privilege not a Right***

Several organizations implementing salmon recovery projects have used advance payments to cover construction or implementation costs. RCO grant programs are reimbursement only. This means project sponsors must first pay for the services or labor and then bill RCO.

Sometimes, sponsors are unable to pay large bills and then wait for reimbursement. Several years ago RCO developed a cash advance policy to help struggling sponsors. However, RCO got in trouble with the auditor last year when several advances were not paid back in time.

For RCO to keep providing cash advances, sponsors need to make paying back any advances a priority. The current policy allows sponsors to pay back the advance in 90 days with an additional 30 days to submit the appropriate paperwork to RCO to clear the advance.

## **New Policy**

RCO will be implementing a new policy that rewards sponsors who meet the deadlines and provide complete billings. The reward - they may continue to receive advances. Sponsors who miss the deadlines will be charged a 1 percent fee and denied cash advances for three months. Please help us by paying your advance on time. A key component is to provide a complete billing on time and return any unused money.